

Serial No. 09/998,635
Amdt. dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2003

Docket No. P-0300

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 1-10 and 19-21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the remaining claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 11-18 are allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chalupa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,865 (hereinafter "Chalupa") in view of Veltman, U.S. Patent No. 6,552,509. It appears that it was also the Examiner's intention to reject claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Chalupa in view of Veltman. However, claims 1-10 and 19-21 are cancelled and thus, the rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

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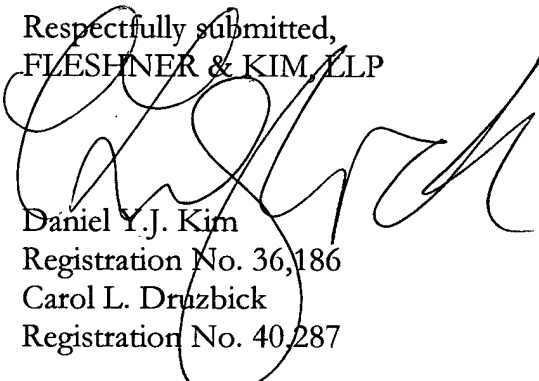
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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